

2015 Waterfowl Seasons and Rules





Director Moore's Open Letter to the Hunters, Anglers and Trappers of Idaho

Over 75 years ago, Fish and Game's Mission was created by the people of Idaho. Hunters, anglers, trappers and others who cared about wildlife wrote it and passed it by a citizens' initiative, approved by 76 percent of voters in 1938 - still the highest margin of victory for any such initiative in the history of our state.

Fish and Game is proud of our Mission:

Wildlife Policy: All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall be only captured or taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping. IC 36-103(a)

For me personally, the Mission has been the single most important guide throughout my 37 years as a fishery and wildlife management professional in Idaho. It keeps me on track, reminding me who we are at Fish and Game and what we do for the public we serve and I refer to it regularly.

Fish and Game is a public trust management agency providing benefits to Idahoans with specific direction to preserve, protect, perpetuate, (i.e., conserve wildlife), and once that is done, our paramount role is to provide for continued supplies for hunting, fishing and trapping. Harvest of wildlife is implicit in our Mission.

Fish and Game funding in Idaho comes predominantly from hunter and angler user fees, with no state general tax funds. This approach has been a key and successful aspect of the North

American Model of Wildlife Management, the most successful large scale approach to wildlife conservation ever taken in the world.

Idahoans hear a lot about threats to that heritage from anti-hunting and anti-trapping groups. In Idaho, I believe we are united to confront such threats as demonstrated two years ago when the citizens of Idaho reaffirmed our Mission by overwhelmingly approving a constitutional amendment (75 percent of voters). The amendment preserves the public's right to hunt, fish and trap, and states these are the preferred methods of managing Idaho's wildlife populations.



In 1977, as a newly hired Idaho Fish and Game fisheries biologist, I witnessed the closure of Idaho's Chinook salmon fishing and I wondered if it was gone for good. Today, we are regularly opening seasons and catching Chinook on the Snake, Clearwater and Salmon Rivers, providing opportunity to thousands of anglers to experience that fishing heritage. Idaho hunters experienced one of the best deer seasons in years, thanks to recent mild winters and management that have helped populations grow, providing much opportunity. The new Elk Plan (<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/planElk.pdf>) provides zone-specific population objectives and strategies to deal with limiting factors including predation mortality by wolves and other predators. After four-and-a-half successful hunting seasons, working together with Idaho hunters and trappers, we're getting our wolf population down to more manageable, but still sustainable levels, and our elk population is beginning to show signs of improvement in many zones.

Idaho Fish and Game is front and center as part of Governor Otter's Sage-Grouse Task Force (<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/sageGrouse/>). Many volunteers, including hunters, are doing everything from participating in population surveys to helping us plant sagebrush. In addition to these on-the-ground efforts, hunters and falconers are helping support sage-grouse conservation through their purchases of licenses and tags. Despite that, a Southern Idaho newspaper recently claimed in print that sage-grouse hunting creates a "perception problem." I responded with an op-ed pointing out that sage-grouse seasons are set based on science, not perception and that we carefully monitor sage-grouse populations and allow hunting only where populations are strong and do not hesitate to close areas where populations or habitat are limiting. That's how we manage all game species, with sound science, and with opportunity for our hunters, anglers, and trappers always in mind.

Fifty three percent of Idahoans fished and 35 percent hunted in the last two years and our numbers are growing. We certified over 13,500 new hunters, bow hunters and trappers last fiscal year, a 14 percent increase over the previous year. And 3,900 ten and eleven year olds hunted their first deer or elk this year. We are also busy with our "Take Me Fishing" trailers, helping nearly 24,000 people over the last two years learn to fish. These are just a few examples of how Fish and Game, and a dedicated corps of volunteers are working to preserve, protect and perpetuate Idaho's wildlife and our hunting and fishing heritage.

Indeed, hunting, fishing, and trapping generate \$1.4 Billion per year for Idaho's economy, supports over 14,000 jobs, and is the second most popular outdoor activity in Idaho (behind camping) because we have such outstanding wildlife resources. Fish, game, and other species exist today thanks to your license dollars and the strong foundation for wildlife conservation and management outlined by our forefathers when they created and implemented the Fish and Game Mission. That is why we use it as a daily guide as Fish and Game strives to make Idaho a better place for fish, wildlife, hunters, anglers, and trappers, and all citizens who benefit from this incredible resource.

Looking ahead, I want to both thank you and reassure you that a top priority at Idaho Fish and Game will always be the hunter, angler, and trapper, and maintaining our wildlife heritage. Demands and issues facing our agency (i.e., endangered species, habitat loss, etc.) are much greater than they were when our Mission was created and the challenges will continue to grow, but nothing will ever be more important than making sure our fish and wildlife populations are healthy and available for hunters and anglers to use.


 Virgil Moore
Director

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Idaho Wildlife Policy



“All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall be only captured or taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping.” — Idaho Code Section 36-103

Idaho Fish and Game Commission

Mark Doerr- Chairman - Magic Valley
 Brad Corkill - Panhandle
 TBA - Clearwater
 Blake Fischer- Southwest
 Lane Clezie - Southeast
 TBA - Upper Snake
 Will Naillon - Salmon

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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 Boise, ID 83707
 208-334-3700 - <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>

Director - Virgil Moore
 Deputy Director - Sharon Kiefer
 Deputy Director - Ed Schriever

Regional Offices

Panhandle Region..... **208-769-1414**
 2885 W. Kathleen Ave., Coeur d’Alene ID 83815

Clearwater Region **208-799-5010**
 3316 16th St., Lewiston ID 83501

Southwest Region **208-465-8465**
 3101 S. Powerline Rd., Nampa ID 83686

McCall Subregion..... **208-634-8137**
 555 Deinhard Lane, McCall ID 83638

Magic Valley Region **208-324-4359**
 324 S 417 E; Suite #1, Jerome ID 83338

Southeast Region **208-232-4703**
 1345 Barton Rd., Pocatello ID 83204

Upper Snake Region **208-525-7290**
 4279 Commerce Circle, Idaho Falls ID 83401

Salmon Region..... **208-756-2271**
 99 Highway 93 N., Salmon ID 83467

Idaho Fish and Game offices are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday except state holidays. Offices in the Panhandle and Clearwater regions are in the Pacific Time Zone; all others are in the Mountain Time Zone.

Other Information Numbers

- Rules booklets, nonresident license applications:208-334-3700
- U. S. Forest Service
 Boise National Forest:208-373-4007
 or1-888-246-7523
- Bureau of Land Management
 Idaho Office:208-373-4000
 or1-888-246-7523
- Idaho Relay Service (TDD)1-800-377-3529

To Buy a License, Tag or Permit:

- In person, go to any Idaho Fish and Game office or license vendor.
- By credit card, within the United States call 1-800-554-8685. Outside the U.S., use the Internet or mail. A service fee is added for telephone transactions.
- From your computer or mobile device, go to <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>. A service fee is added for online transactions.
- Commercial licenses, duplicate tags, documents that require proof of disability, lifetime licenses, and bear baiting permits may be purchased only at Fish and Game offices.



To report wildlife crimes, call Citizens Against Poaching at 1-800-632-5999.

Emergency information can be relayed to Fish and Game personnel through any Idaho law enforcement agency.

For more information on laws in this rule book, visit the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act @ <http://adminrules.idaho.gov>.

Idaho Fish and Game adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or handicap. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of IDFG, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707; or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, Mailstop: MBSP-4020, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203. Telephone: (703) 358-2156. This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Department of Fish and Game for assistance.

Information in this brochure summarizes rules and is an official proclamation of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission for the taking of wildlife and/or fish. The official rules are available from the Office of Administrative Rules, Department of Administration, Statehouse Mail, Boise, ID 83720, and may be reviewed in some libraries. Maps are for general reference only.

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Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

There is no better way to introduce a new hunter to the safe, ethical and responsible aspects of hunting than with the close supervision of a qualified adult mentor.



- Open to licensed hunters 15 years of age and younger.
- Duck, goose, snipe and coot seasons are open for two days only, on September 26 and 27, 2015 in Area 1, October 3 and 4, 2015 in the rest of the state.
- Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) Validation – **required**.
- Federal Migratory Bird (Duck) Stamp – **not required**.
- Daily duck, goose, snipe and coot limits are the same as regular season limits statewide.
- At least one adult 18 years or older with a valid hunting license must accompany each youth hunting party into the field at all times. **Adults are not authorized to hunt.**
- All other state rules and federal regulations pertaining to take of migratory game birds are in effect for this hunt.

WATERFOWL SEASONS AND RULES 2015

September 2015 through March 2016

Including: Wilson's snipe and American coot

KEY DATES:

Canada Goose Season	Area 1	October 3, 2015 to January 15, 2016.
Canada Goose Season	Area 2	October 17, 2015 to January 29, 2016.
Canada Goose Season	Area 3	September 1, 2015 to September 15, 2015 October 17, 2015 to January 14, 2016.
White-fronted Goose Season	Area 1	October 3, 2015 to January 15, 2016.
White-fronted Goose Season	Area 2	October 17, 2015 to January 29, 2016.
White-fronted Goose Season	Area 3	November 9, 2015 to February 21, 2016.
Light Goose Season	Area 1	October 3, 2015 to January 15, 2016.
Light Goose Season	Area 2	October 17, 2015 to January 29, 2016.
Light Goose Season	Area 3	November 27, 2015 to March 10, 2016.
Light Goose Season	Area 4	October 30, 2015 to January 15, 2016 and February 13, 2016 to March 10, 2016.
Duck Season	Area 1	October 3, 2015 to January 15, 2016. Scaup: October 24, 2015 to January 15, 2016.
Duck Season	Area 2	October 17, 2015 to January 29, 2016. Scaup: November 7, 2015 to January 29, 2016.
Special Youth Hunt	Area 1	September 26 and 27, 2015.
Special Youth Hunt	Area 2	October 3 and 4, 2015.

Required:

- Migratory Bird (HIP) Permit.
- Federal Migratory Bird (Duck) Stamp for all hunters 16 or older.
- Nontoxic shot.

It is the responsibility of the hunter to become familiar with the rules that affect the hunt in which he or she is participating. This brochure provides seasons for waterfowl hunting, and it provides a summary of rules that govern waterfowl hunting in Idaho. For details about the rules, please refer to these links: Idaho Administrative Procedures Act, <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/content/idfg-rules>; Idaho Code <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/content/title36>.



License holder must validate stamp
by signing across the front in ink.

Remember!

**If you are 16 or older,
you need to purchase a
Federal Migratory Bird
(Duck) Stamp.**

Available online @

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/content/duckstamp>

Getting Started

To use this brochure:

- Pick the species and area you want to hunt, then refer to the section on that bird.
- Season and limit pages include maps for each hunting area in the state.

There are two hunt areas for ducks, three areas for Canada and white-fronted geese, and four hunt areas for light geese.

Duck, snipe and coot seasons, limits and areas are on page 8.

Goose seasons, limits and areas are on pages 9 - 11.

Detailed rules and restrictions begin on page 20.

License requirements and fees begin on page 26.

Report Duck And Goose Leg Bands

1-800-327-BAND (2263) or
<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/>



What's New:

A new early Canada goose hunt was implemented in southeast Idaho to address agricultural depredation concerns. This early season runs from September 1 through September 15.

Youth Waterfowl Season is September 26 and 27 in Area 1; October 3 and 4 in the rest of the state.

The daily bag limit for ducks remains seven, but not more than two female mallards, two redheads, three scaup, two pintails or **two canvasback**.

Hunters are reminded that electronic calls and unplugged shotguns are allowed only for hunting light geese when no other seasons are open. (See page 11).

Rather than seek comment on minor changes annually, Idaho Fish and Game surveyed a random sample of waterfowl hunters to help guide season-setting through 2016. This survey showed waterfowl hunters preferred continuous seasons for ducks and Canada geese that start and end later. Survey results are available at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/content/waterfowl-pdf>.

Waterfowl shooting hours chart: pages 12 - 14.



Photo courtesy Clair Kofoed